



Minutes
POLICY COMMITTEE
Avon Board of Education
34 Simsbury, Avon, Connecticut 06001
Via Zoom
Monday, September 19, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.

Attendance

Members Present: Laura Young, Chair; Deb Chute; Lisa Seminara; Thej Singh

Member(s) Absent: none

Administration Present: Dr. Bridget Heston Carnemolla, Superintendent of Schools; Jess Giannini, Assistant Superintendent; Roberto Medic, Assistant Superintendent

Others Present: Shirley Moy, Recording Secretary; Sarah Thompson, Board Member

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Committee Chair, Laura Young.

II. Approval of April 5, 2022 Minutes

Deb Chute moved to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2022 Policy Committee meeting, Lisa Seminara seconded.
The motion passed 4-0-0

III. Communication from Public

There was not communication from the public.

IV. New Business – Items for Review and Discussion

a. Policy 6146.12 – Advanced Courses and Challenging Curriculum

Superintendent Carnemolla explained that this is an entirely new policy which previously did not exist and as such it is a new model policy written by the Board's attorney, Shipman & Goodwin. The policy was created due to legislation having been passed by the General Assembly which is now established law. The policy directly reflects state statute. The intent is to ensure that districts are allowing as many students as possible to take college readiness and/or advanced level classes; that districts are not putting up barriers in any way; course offerings are published and to the extent possible, courses will be open for all students. The Superintendent clarified that the district does not currently have an International Baccalaureate program, but one would be covered if the district ever offered it.

Laura Young moved to bring forward to the full Board Policy 6146.12 – Advanced Courses and Challenging Curriculum as presented to the full Board for a first read, Thej Singh seconded.

The motion passed 4-0-0

b. Policy 6146.1 – Basis for Grading

The Superintendent explained the need to revise the policy due to the statute that

necessitated the previously mentioned policy. Revisions were made to eliminate redundancy from the new policy. While the policies are interrelated, the Basis for Grading Policy is one in particular, that districts are supposed to ensure consistency of. While exact calculations of weighting may appear different, the weighting is meant to be the same from one grade and course to another. Districts must also now allow parents/guardians to have access to class rank data, whereas it used to be only required for the top 10%. The Superintendent will be seeking further clarification from the board attorney. This is a required policy including suggested revisions, which are effective as of this school year, Dr. Carnemolla added.

Laura Young moved to bring forward to the full Board Policy 6146.1 – Basis for Grading as presented to the full Board, pending any further possible changes from the attorneys, for a first read, Deb Chute seconded.

The motion passed 4-0-0

c. Policy 5125.1 – Student Privacy

The Superintendent explained that what transpired with student surveys last year prompted her to review the Surveys of Students policy and to seek advice of district attorneys for potential revisions and/or updates. Their recommendation was to repeal the Surveys of Students policy and rather to provide information under the bigger umbrella of a student privacy policy, which is one of their model policies. The policy number is changed to take it out of the Instruction section of policies and to now include it in the Student section. This suggested policy aligns with Federal laws and regulations; nearly 100% of the language in this policy is based on Federal law which the State of CT law mirrors. Dr. Carnemolla clarified the question regarding gender reference stating that this is what the attorneys recommend. She added that parents and guardians have the right to opt their student out of any survey, also, regarding personally identifiable information, students are almost never asked for an email or a name, unless they offer to provide the information. Regarding screenings, Dr. Carnemolla confirmed that the district does screenings as required by law, but uniform lice screenings are not required or done in the district. Notifications, including annual notifications, was also addressed. Dr. Carnemolla clarified to the Committee members that whether the policy is passed or not, it's based on the law and the district has already been following the statutes.

Laura Young moved to bring forward to the full Board Policy 5125.1 – Student Privacy as presented to the full Board for a first read, Thej Singh seconded.

The motion passed 4-0-0

d. Policy 6162.51 – Surveys of Students

The Superintendent recommended to repeal this policy if Policy 5125.1 is adopted by the Board.

Laura Young moved to bring forward to the full Board the recommendation to repeal Policy 6162.51 – Survey of Students, Lisa Seminara seconded.

The motion passed 4-0-0

e. Policy 6161 – Selection of Educational Materials

The Superintendent explained that revisions were made to reflect changes to State statute and update language to mirror the language in the statute; including the language regarding sexes/gender.

Laura Young moved to bring forward to the full Board Policy 6161 – Selection of Educational Materials as presented to the full Board for a first read, Deb Chute seconded.

The motion passed 4-0-0

V. Future Items for Review

- a. School Volunteers & Parent Involvement
- b. Homework Policy

VI. Adjournment

Committee Chair, Laura Young, reminded Committee members of the Special Meeting scheduled for October 4th to discuss policy changes due to new Legislature. Dr. Carnemolla added that it will not be a Special Meeting of the Policy Committee, but a Special Meeting of the Board of Education so all Board members can attend and participate. The Committee asked if the Board members could receive the policies that will be discussed ahead of the meeting which the Superintendent agreed to try to do.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:08 pm.

Minutes prepared by Shirley Moy, Recording Secretary

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Young, Policy Committee Chair

Laura Young, September 23, 2022

Minutes respectfully received by Jeffrey S. Fleischman, Board Secretary

Jeffrey S. Fleischman, September 23, 2022

Minutes are approved at the next Policy meeting, and any corrections to the minutes, if needed, will be made at that time.